



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

On behalf of the Kansas Paint Horse Association, thank you for your consideration of proposed House Bill No. 2449.

The Kansas Paint Horse Association has been invested in working to promote the Paint Horse since 1967 through education, marketing, recreation and performance events.

The Kansas Equine Education and Promotion bill will provide horse owners with more opportunities to promote their particular breed, become better educated through clinics and events, enjoy more Kansas trails via horseback and generally have more opportunities available to grow their equine businesses, network and partner with other horse owners and benefit from more equine research endeavors within our state.

The equine industry took a major economic hit in 2005 with the closing of the processing facilities. We need to stimulate growth and this bill will facilitate that. Kansas equine rescue facilities can only house about 90 horses on any given day. Therapeutic riding facilities work endlessly to provide quality horses, tack and necessary training for their volunteers and employees. Kids attending Church, 4-H and Scout camps would benefit greatly from learning to not only ride horses but be responsible for their care and feeding. Revenues generated by this bill will go way beyond the showing and training sector of our industry and will encompass all breeds, disciplines and recreational activities.

We believe the bill has been structured to have a very low financial impact on equine owners of about \$1.50 per year, per horse. Due to fluctuations in the grain market, five cents per fifty pound bag of feed may likely go unnoticed by most individuals. Plus, anyone not wanting to participate has the option of receiving a full refund.

We also believe it's only fair to allow us the same opportunities granted to the other agricultural commodities in our state which includes the ability to generate revenue through a mechanism of self-funding.

The Kansas Paint Horse Association is in full support of the K.E.E.P. legislation and ask that you recommend H.B.2449 be submitted to the full House of Representatives for passage. Are there any questions?